

L.T.-SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The British defenders of Singapore ^{with} have their
backs to the wall tonight, ^{are in much the same predicament} ~~Their position is like that~~
^{as} ~~of~~ the original British expeditionary force ^{to Belgium} in Nineteen
Fifteen when the Old Contemptibles, as they called
themselves, fought the first Battle of Ypres, which
stopped the Germans and saved the Allies in France and
Flanders by winning time for reinforcements.

Our authority for the drawing of this
parallel between the Battle of Ypres and the Battle of
Singapore is none other than Sir Archibald Wavell,
Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces in the East.
The most important thing coming out of Singapore tonight
is the special order of the day that he issued to the

army. The original British expeditionary force, he said, saved Ypres and stopped the Germans. And he adds: "We must be worthy successors of them and save Asia by fighting these Japanese."

47

General Wavell continued:- "The Japanese are straining every nerve to keep the advantage gained by their initial surprise, but once their impetus is thwarted, they will soon be discouraged. Our part," he said, "is to gain time for great reinforcements which we and our American allies are sending to the eastern theatre. The Japanese," he added, "have now reached an area where the British cannot be constantly outflanked ⁾ ~~and where the enemy cannot exploit with superior mobility."~~

Then he used these ringing words:- "You must yield no strip of ground without fighting hard, and you must leave nothing behind undestroyed that would be

of the least service to the enemy. Our friends and allies, the Dutch," ~~he~~ ^{he} said ~~further,~~ "are carrying out this policy in every part of the Netherlands East Indies with sacrifice and resolution."

General Wavell's special order wound up with this appeal:- "I look to you all to fight this battle without further thought of retreat and to make the defense of Singapore as memorable and successful as the defense of Tobruk, which British and Australian troops held so long and so gallantly." In other words, hold on, ~~for all your brave men,~~ ^{big} help is on the way.

All day long, the heavy planes of the Mikado's army were bombing Singapore. And all day long the British at Singapore were pounding the enemy across ~~the~~ Johore Straits.

Not only the business district but the residential parts of Singapore resounded with heavy explosions. In one raid alone, eighteen Japanese

48
planes dumped heavy loads of incendiaries and other bombs.

In spite of the Japanese efforts to cross the Straits and of the fire of the British artillery, Australian soldiers, the rear guard of the ^{Imperial forces,} ~~army~~, were making their way ^{to Singapore Island,} ~~over~~ Some of them swimming in broad daylight. They ^{se} were Aussies, who had been cut off when the main body of the British retreated south. ~~They~~ ^{ing} Trickled in by twos and threes, fighting their lone way through jungles, some of them coming down the coast in small boats. ^{Through} ~~Their~~ hardships ~~were~~ indescribable, ^{and} almost unbelievable.

48

INDIES

As for the Dutch, they are still fighting despite the wild claims of the Japanese who say they have achieved a complete victory in the Netherlands possessions.

A high official of the Dutch military establishment tells us that the Japanese report of Borneo being entirely in Nipponese hands is absurd. That the Japanese may control Tarakan and Balikpapan, and perhaps even Pontianak, but that they still have a long way to go before they can make good their ridiculous claims.

In Borneo alone there are some fifty airports of the Netherlands air force, hidden in the jungles. And from those fields a spirited guerrilla warfare has been kept up.

The Dutch military spokesman admitted today that if the Japanese are successful in consolidating at Balikpapan, then they'll be ready for a strong attack on the city of Banjarmasin, on the south

INDIES - 2

Borneo coast, a key seaport which would put the
Mikado in control of the Java Sea.

ARMY COMMUNIQUE

49
There's no communique from the War Department about the fighting in the Philippines tonight. This morning's report brought word that the Japanese made another vigorous attack on General MacArthur's left flank with their Sixteenth Division. This the American and Filipinos "sharply repulsed, ^{using} ~~in~~ the words of the communique.

50
It also reports that our troops continue to mop up ~~many~~ ~~battered~~ remnants of Japanese who have landed on the west coast or filtered behind our lines. These were soldiers of the Tatori group, the picked men specially trained for that work. They were found in isolated pockets. The enemy had tried to supply them with food and ammunition dropped by parachute, but most of those supplies fell into ^{McArthur's} ~~our~~ hands.

^{tells us}
The War Department communique also ~~reports~~ that seven heavy bombers of the American army air corps

ARMY COMMUNIQUE - 2

sunk two Japanese transports at Balik Papan, and also hit a third, which was badly damaged and probably sunk.

BURMA

~~But~~ Perhaps the fiercest and most important fighting in Southeastern Asia today was along ~~was on~~ the Salween River in Burma. The British report they are still holding that line, though it isn't clear whether the enemy has been able to force a passage yet and establish a bridgehead on the west bank, ^{of the Salween} ~~The~~

^{The Japs} ~~Japanese of course~~ claim ~~that~~ they have; and that they are preparing for an attack in force on Martaban, the next big fortified point of resistance on the road to Rangoon.

51
But the British announce that although the enemy made a number of attacks on the west bank of the Salween, they were repulsed. They admit the Japanese have established themselves on a number of islands at the point where the Salween empties into the Gulf of Martaban. ~~And~~ British and American aviators made punishing attacks on the Japanese ^{who got to} ~~position in~~ those islands. The enemy also tried to land troops

on the west shore of the Gulf of Martaban, but were

repulsed. American and British aviators are operating

against
with ~~heavy attacks on~~ the Japanese all along that

Salween ~~River~~ front. *between Moulmein and*

Rangoon.

CHINA

Chinese Leader Chiang Kai-shek is about to let loose a major offensive against the Japanese. The high command in Chungking made this announcement today. It naturally said nothing about where ~~it~~ ^{the show} will begin. But, say the Chinese, it will start ~~right~~ soon, the moment the army receives the military supplies from the United States. They were actually landed in Asia before the Pacific war broke out, and it has taken all this time to move them up the Burma Road, through the mountains of western China ^{and on} to the eastern Chinese front lines.

52
This campaign has been in preparation for some time, so says the report from Chungking. Chiang ~~Kai-shek~~ began months ago to build strong bases, many of them close to the Japanese lines, others to the rear. His best troops have been sent to those places to wait for the signal. They include air bases for the launching

of bombing raids on territory occupied by the Japanese.

It seems the
~~The~~ victory at Changsha has given the Chinese commanders
a good deal of hope. They believe it proves what they
can do when they have modern equipment. Changsha,
~~in case you don't remember,~~ ^{being} ~~was~~ the scene of ^{that} a battle
in which a Japanese army estimated at a hundred thousand
men was defeated, with ^{perhaps 50 or 60 Japanese} ~~fifty-six~~ thousand casualties.

This news comes on the day when the House of
Representatives passed its part of a joint resolution
authorizing the President to lend the Chinese half a
billion dollars. The Representatives made no
difficulties, ~~about the vote,~~ in fact it was a voice
vote, and one of those who spoke up for it was
Congressman ~~Han~~ Fish of New York, the former isolationist
leader, ^{who said! -} ~~He expressed a strong argument, when he said:-~~
"If China is driven from the war or collapses, or is
forced to make peace, I don't believe we can win."

53

And he added that the same applies to Russia. He didn't go so far as to say that the defeat of China or Russia would mean our defeat also, but that if either of them has to withdraw, the war will end in a stalemate.

LIBYA

The British army in Africa has now had to get out of Derna. It was only three or four weeks ago that we were cheered by the news that the Imperial forces had captured that place on the Libyan coast. But now Nazi General Rommel's drive has advanced three hundred and twenty-four miles in an amazingly short time, and his line ~~and~~ now stretches from a point southeast of Benghazi to within a hundred miles of Tobruk. The British have had to retire fifty miles in two days.

That's why they had to give up Derna.

One reason for the Nazi sweep is reinforcements. There has been rough weather in the Mediterranean, which has helped the Axis to cross from Italy into Africa. What's more, the British here have heard that the Nazis have been sending their best and most experienced submarine crews into those waters to protect transport convoys.

RUSSIA

We are still waiting for the big news from Russia that the Soviet generals have been promising us for several days. ^{Today} There isn't anything definite except vague reports of the most violent kind of fighting in the region around Smolensk. [↑] There are three main battle centers, one west of Moscow, another northwest, and still another in the south. The report is that the Nazi generals have issued the order to their troops to stand or die. This order, the Russians claim, was found among the papers of ^{captured} German soldiers, ~~that were captured.~~ According to the newspaper RED STAR, one such order issued by a Nazi infantry general, said: "I categorically forbid the surrender of any positions and I will execute any commander on the spot who surrenders any village without my permission. Die, but do not retreat."

London papers are referring to the present

stage of that campaign on the eastern front, as the
Battle of Smolensk, indicating that the announcement
we are waiting for will be the capture of Smolensk.

Which
~~But that~~ evidently is not yet an accomplished fact.

SAN GIL

Thirty-nine people owe their lives to the quick and nimble skill of a marine radio operator.

The steamer SAN GIL of the United Fruit Company was going along the Atlantic coast late last night, when she was hit by a torpedo. It struck ~~fair~~ amidships, right in the engine room, killed two of the black gang instantly, and injured two others. It also knocked down the antenna of the radio. "Sparks," whose real name is Robert S. Thorp, of East Orange, New Jersey, climbed aloft and with lightning speed rigged up an emergency antenna. Then he started sending out calls for help.

Three lifeboats were then lowered by the crew with the help of one passenger. The minute they hit the water, they were dodging shells, for the submarine started firing on the ship. Thanks to the quick work of Sparks, a Coast Guard cutter appeared on the scene and saved all hands except the two men killed in the engine room.

SAN GIL

And, said the master of the SAN GIL - the rescue is

due to the ^{spy}~~spy~~ work of that ~~Sparks~~ radio
operator.

SUGAR

We will not have ration cards for sugar in this country. But each person will probably receive a book of sugar stamps to last him for three months. ~~XXXX~~ Leon Henderson hasn't yet decided the exact amount each person will have, but it will most likely be about twelve ounces a week. Twelve ounces per week for every individual, no matter how old or how young. Father, Mother and two children would thus get three pounds every seven days. Which to most people in Europe would represent the height of luxury.

PEARL HARBOR

Here's some news from the world of film -- the newsreel. The Pearl Harbor pictures are being released -- we are working on them tonight. It has been known in the motion picture world that there was a motion picture camera at Pearl Harbor, and film was made of the destruction there. It happened that ^{Fox} Movietone Cameraman Al Brick had been assigned to cover the fleet in Hawaiian waters, ~~and he was there~~ ^{— and there was Al} when the enemy planes came over for that startling and treacherous surprise on December Seventh. ~~And~~ ^{the} Al Brick got [^] pictures, [^] hundreds and hundreds of feet of film. This, obviously, was motion picture material that amounted to a military secret. The film was turned over to the Navy, was scrutinized and found to be of a sensational sort that might give useful information to the enemy -- if made public. So it was held until such time when ~~they~~ information could no longer do the Japanese any good -- then to be released. ^{So after all these weeks the} ~~That~~ [^] time now has come, and the pictures

2/6

37

made by Al Brick of Movietone are to be shown. This
in accordance with our American policy of freedom
and public enlightenment in all cases when such
does not benefit our antagonists in the war. I saw
the Pearl Harbor film this afternoon, it's going to be
~~be a thrill~~ ^{exciting} to work on it tonight -- telling the
story to accompany ^{some of the most} ~~the~~ dramatic scenes ~~ever~~
recorded on film.

MacARTHUR

58
The latest anecdote about General Douglas MacArthur comes from Denver, Colorado. It's told by Colonel Thomas Gimberling in command of the recruiting office in the Colorado district.

On a warm Spring night in Nineteen Three, there was a hop at West Point. Some of the cadets, who either *meaning a gal, or who* didn't have a drag, ~~or~~ preferred poker, left the dance floor and went to the locker room. There they brought out a deck of cards and the chips and applied themselves to the science of filling inside straights.

In the middle of the game, they heard the loud clank of a spurred heel in the corridor and the rather obvious rattling of a sabre, ~~they~~ heard ~~the~~ *it* ~~noise in sufficient~~ ^{*in*} time to grab a bath mat and cover the cards and the chips. In came the officer of the day, whose name was MacArthur, and who spoke as follows:-

"Gentlemen, one look at this gathering convinces me

that you have in hand matters more serious than the promenade. However," he added, "if I were you, I would refrain from studying military tactics after class and enjoy the ~~xxx~~ romantic recreation prepared for you." So saying, he saluted and left the room.

The point of the story is that Office^F of the Day MacArthur was enough of a sportsman to make a noise with spurs and sabre before he entered the locker room.

59
Oh yes, —
~~I forgot to mention that~~ among the students *after hours* of those *after hours* military tactics ~~after classes~~ were Colonel *cadet* Gimberling himself, and the ~~office~~, subsequently known to fame as General Hugh S. Johnson, *alias Old Britches* *Pants.*

And now another Hugh whom we don't call old Iron

59 1/2 *Pants!*